daily service on Mumbai-Delhi-Patna-Ranchi and *vice versa* route. During summer, in view of high temperatures and short runway at patna, flights ex-Patna can be operated only with a heavy pay load penalty. With a view to minimizing load penalty, ex-Patna, Indian Airliens is constrained to reroute the service IC808/810 and operate the same as Mumbai-Delhi-Ranchi-Patna and *vice versa*, during the period April to mid-July. In case re-routing is not done, the number of seats will be severely restricted for the passengers travelling between Patna and Delhi. The average number of passengers travelling to Patna *via* Ranchi *vis-a-vis* the direct flight to Patna does not reveal any significant decrease during 2002.

Operation of Private Indian Airlines in SAARC Countries

3265. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering allowing Private Indian Airlines companies to operate in SAARC Countries;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) whether they will operate in countries now connected with Indian Airlines and Air India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) No, such decision has been taken.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Plans for maintenance of Aircrafts

3266. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of plans formulated by Government for maintenance of various aircrafts by Indian Airlines; and

(b) the steps taken by Government for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Indian Airlines undertakes all major maintenance jobs on all the aircraft types in its fleet. Major Maintenance of Airbus A-320, Boeing 737-200 and Dornier DO-228 is undertaken at the Delhi base, and that of Airbus A-300 aircraft at Mumbai base, of Indian Airlines. Some major checks on A-320 and B-737-200 are

also carried out at the Hyderabad and Kolkata bases. Daily and Weekly Inspections are carried out at Chennai, Bangalore and Sharjah also.

The major check plans are drawn by Indian Airlines, in respect of each type of aircraft in its fleet, as per the guidelines laid down by the manufacturers and approved by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). All the major maintenance facilities of Indian Airlines are approved by the DGCA.

Implementation of the major check plans so drawn up, is regularly monitored by the Engineering Department of Indian Airlines.

Investigation of companies by SEBI

3267. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Companies like HFCL, Zee Tele Films, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals, Piraal Group, Vidyut Investments, Ranbaxy are under investigation by SEBI; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that it has conducted investigation into the affairs relating to buying, selling or dealing in the shares of HFCL, Zee Telefilms and Ranbaxy for the period from October 1, 1999 to March 31, 2001.

Investigations have revealed that entities connected with Ketan Parekh have manipulated the market in the scrips of HFCL, Zee Telefilms and Ranbaxy alongwith various other brokers.

Vidyut Investment (a subsidiary of Ranbaxy Lab Ltd), has also been found to have given funds to certain entities including the entities associated with Ketan Parekh.

RBIs directions on stapling of notes

3268. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the RBI has issued directions to all the banks to discontinue the practice of stapling currency notes packets;